

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001
Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland, CA

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:30 pm. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (two vacancies)

Present: Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, Yvonne Myers, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson,
Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong
Excused: Valerie Abad, Raymond Bobbitt, Elba Sanchez,
Absent: Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Lisa Brenneisen, Shouri Loft, Ira Vafaeenia

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of September 12, 2001 regular meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved approval. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

- A. Scott Means, Inclusive Recreation Coordinator: Mr. Means is providing training to OPR staff to improve responsiveness and sensitivity to people with disabilities, and to expand accessibility to recreation programs. Special training will be provided to aquatic staff, and two of OPR pools now have wheelchair lifts. The goal is to create an environment where people with disabilities feel welcome.
- B. Erik Nielsen, Technology Literacy Program Specialist: Mr. Nielsen was not available, but will attend the next Commission meeting. Mr. Ryugo gave a brief summary of Mr. Nielsen's assignment, which is to create computer training centers at various recreation centers. Mr. Nielsen is looking for grant money to hire additional instructors, and to corporations to acquire computers. Space is the primary criteria for centers to be chosen for computer training. It was suggested that staff look into partnering with a nonprofit that provides computer training so that the centers do not have to sacrifice space.

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

No additional items.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Items 12A, 11A and 12B were moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Rita Torres-Gonzalez submitted her letter of resignation effective immediately. If Commissioners know of any prospective candidates they should encourage them to complete an application.

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: A meeting, shepherded by the concessionaire, will be held at the Lake Chabot Golf Course to discuss the general plan.

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** No reports

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Cancer Survivor Park: Mr. Ryugo exchanged voicemails with the new executive director of the Bloch Foundation and will follow up on the Mosswood Park vs Snow Park issue. The plaques for the Positive Mental Attitude Walk are a mandatory feature of the Cancer Survivor Park. Questions were raised about the two phone numbers listed on the plaque. Is it appropriate to list phone numbers in a park. What are the phone numbers for? Does the local cancer society endorse this proposal? This item will be kept on the agenda on an on-going basis.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair:
The Commission voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Matthew Webb to Chair and Commissioner Theresa Nelson to Vice Chair.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01—109, 4022 Broadway: Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II, gave a brief description of the trees which are located on a vacant lot in a heavily populated area adjacent to a four-plex. A black acacia tree had a main trunk fail, and that tree is to be removed due to its hazardous condition. The remaining two trees are large maples which are in poor health and a potential hazard. One maple next to Broadway has a significant lean. The other tree is close to a building, is multi-stemmed and has had limb failure. Preserving the trees by trimming the trees is not an option, since the amount of limb removal required would be extensive. A tree removal permit has been granted for their removal. Two appellants spoke in opposition to removal of the trees, emphasizing their beauty and environmental value. The appellants collected over 100 signatures from local residents to oppose the removal of the trees. Staff recommends that the permits be upheld. The PRAC Tree Committee met at the site of the trees and concurs with staff's recommendation.

MOTION: Commissioner Wong moved to deny the appeal of the tree removal permit. Commissioner Nelson amended the motion to include the planting of appropriate replacement trees by the property owner, and that the property owner work with OPR Tree Division staff to comply with the requirements for the replacement trees. Commissioner Wong accepted the amendment. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- B. PRAC Long Term Project: At the PRAC retreat in August, 2001 the Commissioners discussed projects they would like to take on that would accomplish a tangible result. Project ideas included a bike trail that would link Lake Merritt to the Estuary; advocating for more money to help recreation centers located in the flatlands; advocating for long term improved park maintenance, and others. Mr. Ryugo advised that there is a group of concerned citizens who will be meeting about park maintenance issues and what we can do to change, including community ownership, feedback and oversight by the community. Several Commissioners agreed that the long term PRAC project should be improved park/facility maintenance. Commissioner Nelson suggested a campaign, since the maintenance issue is huge, and that PRAC could solicit support and input from other interested organizations and individuals. Commissioner Webb suggested that the PRAC also identify another project, that they could work on in conjunction with the long term campaign, and accomplish on their own. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Proposition 12 Funding Requests: This item was approved by the City Council on 9/25/01.
- B. Informational Report on the Status of Studio One Art Center: There will be additional evaluations on Studio One. The City does not have the \$5 million to repair the building. The question was raised as to why OPR has not applied for funding to build a new art center.

13. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- The key staff for OPR park and facility planning has been transferred to the Public Works Agency. Some of the work they were doing has been dropped, and it has not been determined as to who is going to pick up that work.
- The City has not updated emergency preparedness guidelines. A concerted effort is now being made by each department and agency to update their guidelines. In the event of an emergency, OPR management, recreation and maintenance staff will provide leadership and support. Recreation centers will be used as shelters, and equipment (vans, trucks, etc.) will be available as needed. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson has participated in FEMA training and advised that one of the key concepts is to look at properties to shelter the several thousands of people who could become homeless.

14. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Nelson congratulated the OPR for the excellent article about Lakeside Park in the Tribune that day.
- There are two upcoming park (life enrichment) bonds. PRAC should have discussion about how to support the bond measures.

15. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Children's Fairyland is having a dedication of the carousel on Friday, September 28, 2001, 5:30-7:00pm.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary